How to become a Dragon

- EPISODE 181 -

WERE YOU IN HIDING SO YOU COULD SNEAK ATTACK US?
WHAT MADE YOU SO UPSET?
S-SNEAK ATTACK?!
STARTLE
ABSOLUTELY NOT!

IT'S JUST... I'M THE ONE WHO GATHERED ALL THE BIRDS TOGETHER,
BUT IT FELT UNFAIR THAT THE

IBISES WERE THE ONLY ONES WHO WERE REWARDED...

THEY STARTED ACTING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY WITH THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT'S HAIR TIED AROUND THEM...

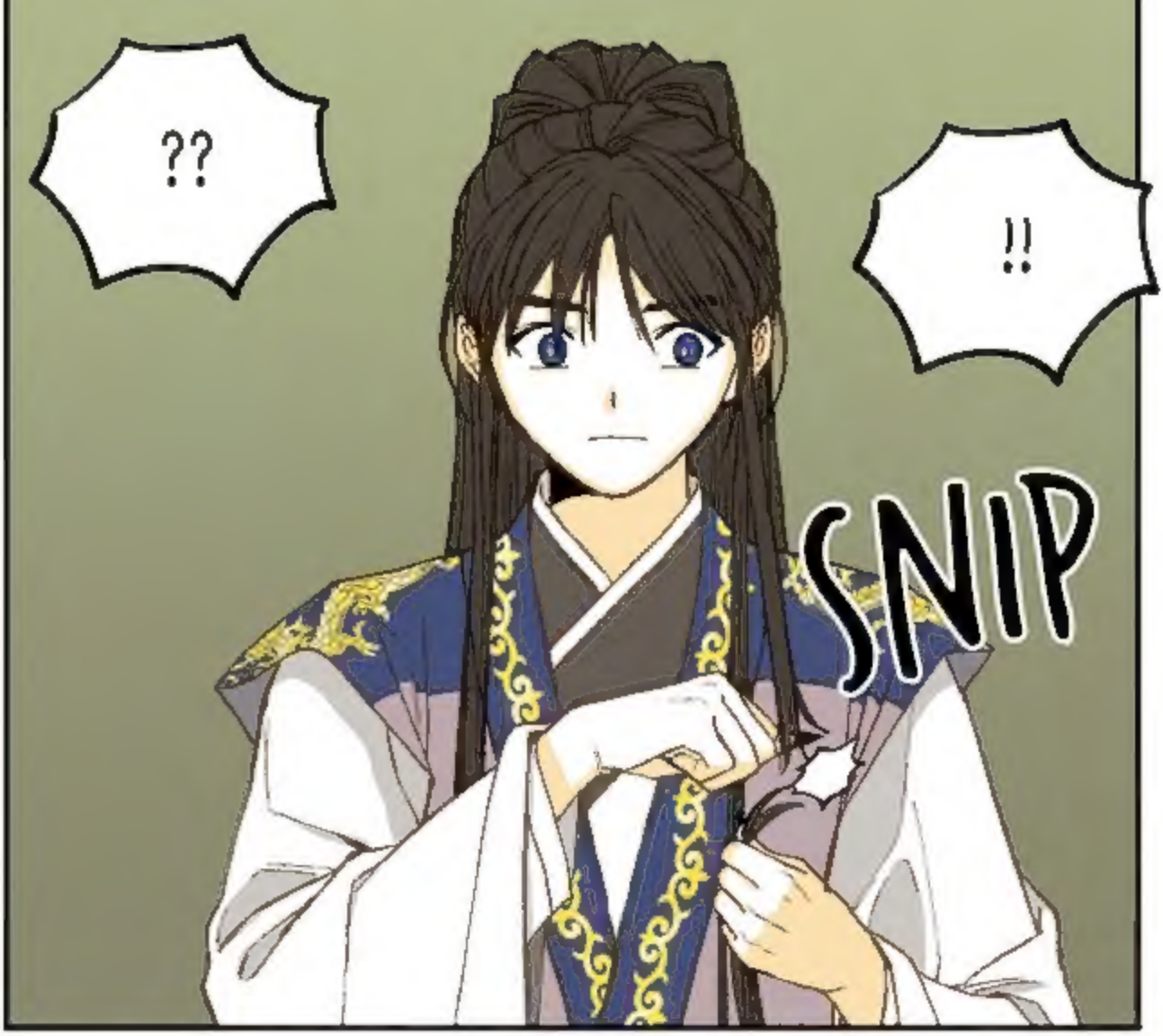
...AND I JUST COULDN'T STAND IT...

I'M THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THE IBISES HERE!
I'M THE ONE WHO WAS RECRUITED BY THE IMOOGI!
I'M THE ONE WHO WENT TO MOUNT TAEBAEK AND HELPED DIG!
URRR
I DON'T BELIEVE MY ROLE WAS ANY LESS IMPORTANT THAN THOSE OF THE IBISES!
AT LEAST...
FINISH WHAT

THAT'S WHAT I THINK...
YOU HAVE TO SAY. WHY ARE YOU GETTING ALL SELF-CONSCIOUS ABOUT IT?
SHRINK
ERM... THAT'S ALL...

I REMEMBER YOUR HARD WORK!
OF COURSE I SHOULD COMPENSATE YOU FOR IT!
BUT YOU

USED ALL OF THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT'S HAIR.


??
!!
SNIP

I CAN'T GIVE YOU THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT'S HAIR, BUT...
UH...
UM...
TWIST
TWIST

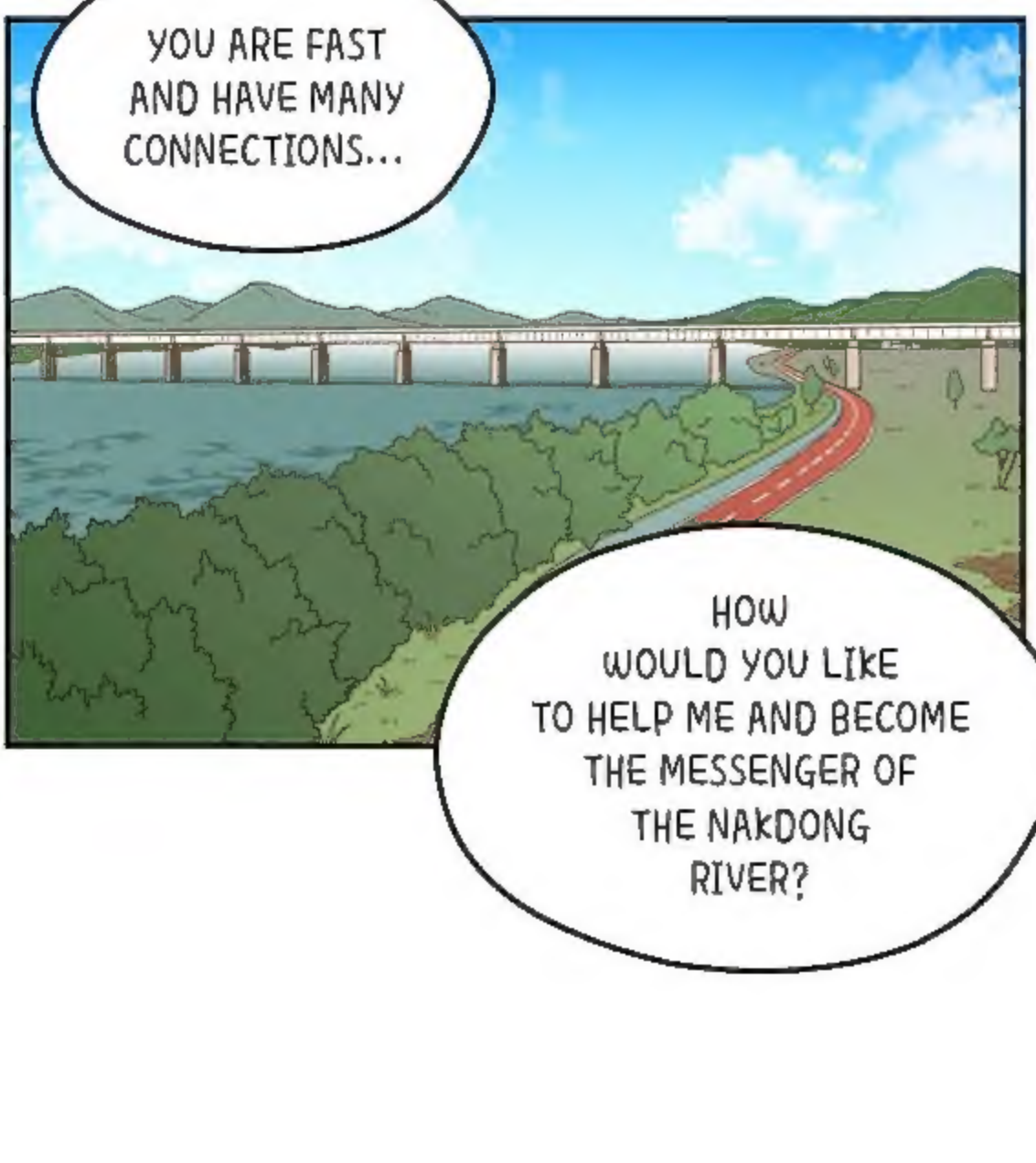
...MAYBE MY HAIR WILL DO...
SPARKLE
SPARKLE
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

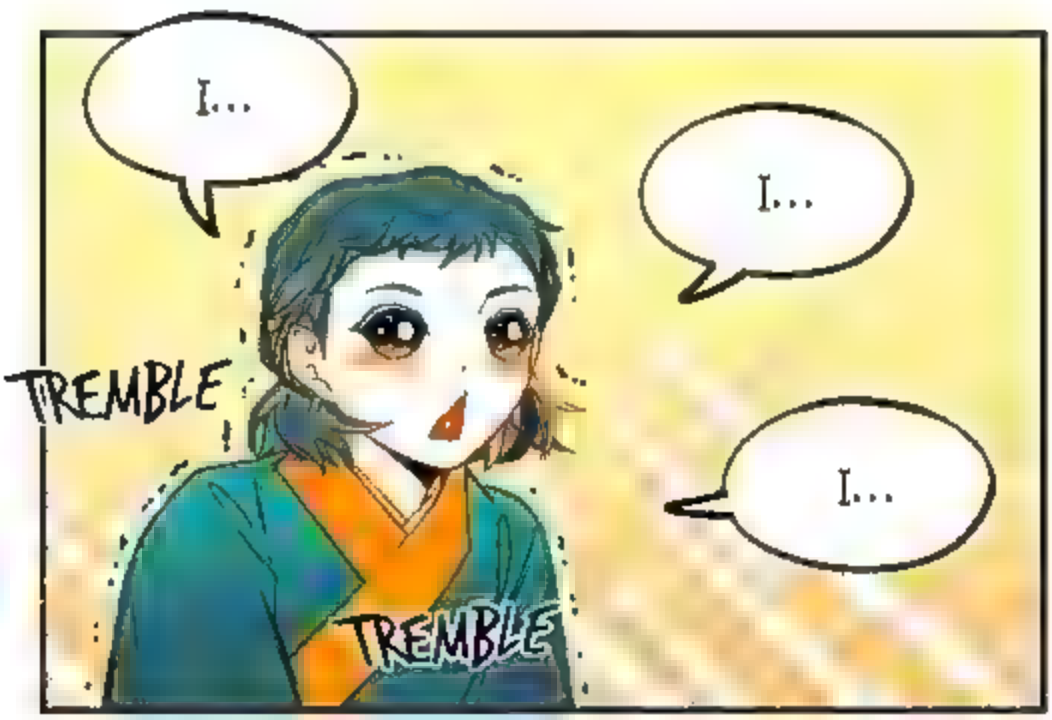
THE...
THE...
THE...

THE HAIR OF A DRAGON...!
SO MUCH?
IS IT ALL MINE?
YOU'RE GIVING IT TO ME, NOT JUST LENDING IT...?
YES, TAKE IT.

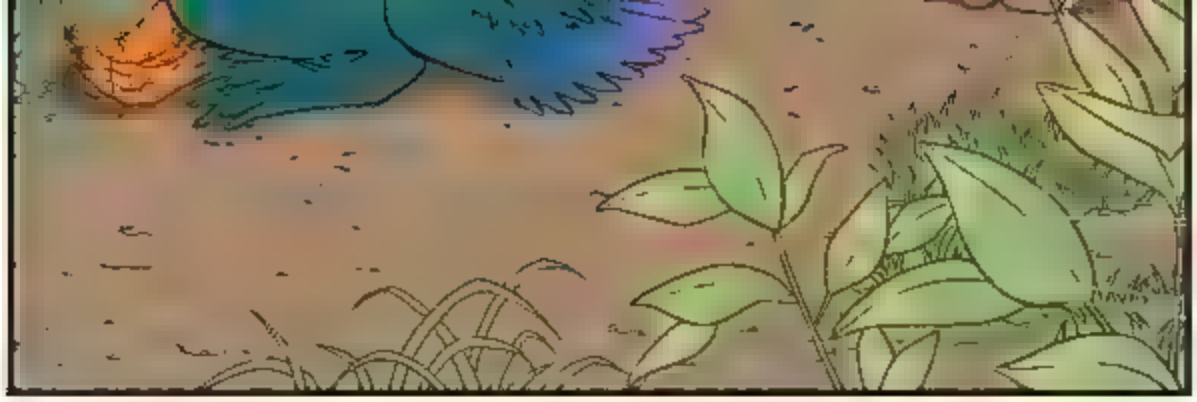
AND... IF YOU'RE ALRIGHT WITH MOVING YOUR NEST,
I'LL GIVE YOU A PLACE TO STAY BY THE NAKDONG RIVER.

IF YOU'D LIKE, I CAN ARRANGE THE SAME FOR ALL OF THE BIRDS THAT HELPED.

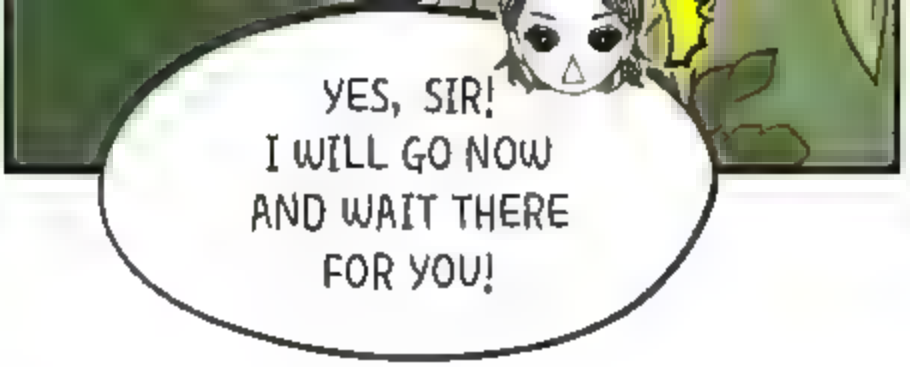

YOU ARE FAST AND HAVE MANY CONNECTIONS...
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP ME AND BECOME THE MESSENGER OF THE NAKDONG RIVER?


I...
I...
I...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

I WILL GIVE IT MY ALL!
HAHA
I AM LOOKING FOWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU.
BOW



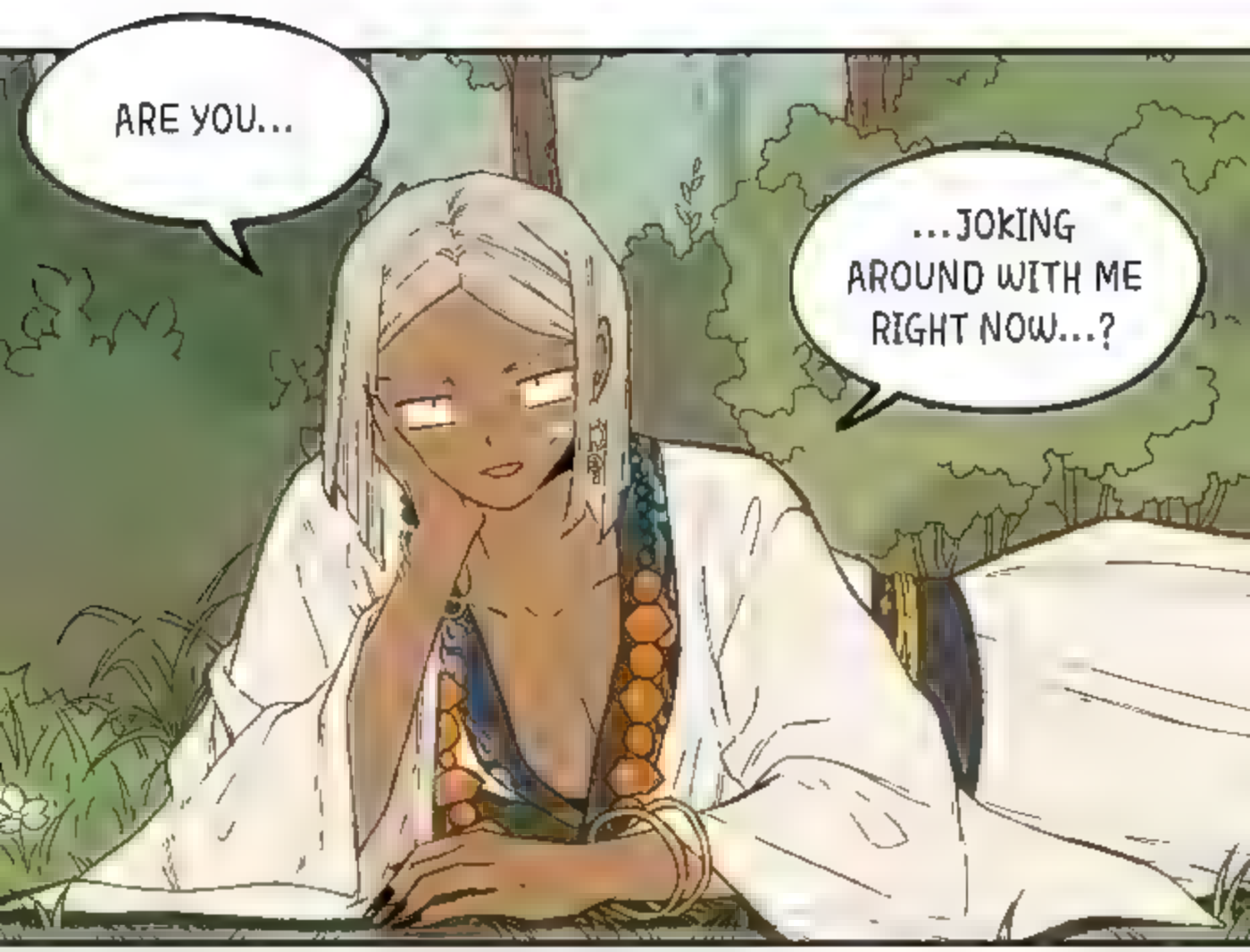
D-DOES THAT MEAN WE ARE GOING TO THE NAKDONG RIVER TOGETHER NOW?
NO, I STILL HAVE SOME WORK LEFT TO DO.
IF YOU GO TO THE NAKDONG RIVER AND TELL AN IMOOGI NAMED JAHYEON WHAT I TOLD YOU, SHE WILL ARRANGE A PLACE FOR YOU TO STAY.


YES, SIR!
I WILL GO NOW
AND WAIT THERE
FOR YOU!

WHAT...?
WHY
NOT MIRI?

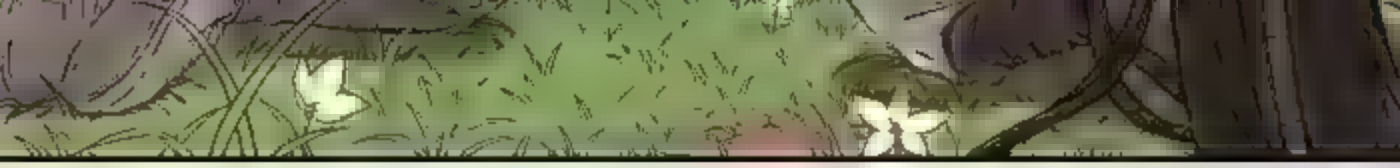
MIRI...
...IS LIKELY NOT AT THE NAKDONG RIVER.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? ISN'T HE REDEVELOPING--
I MEAN
--REBUILDING THE DRAGON PALACE?
LET'S GO MEET THE MOUNTAIN SPIRIT.

WE BETTER PREPARE OURSELVES.
HE'S REALLY GONNA CHEW US OUT.



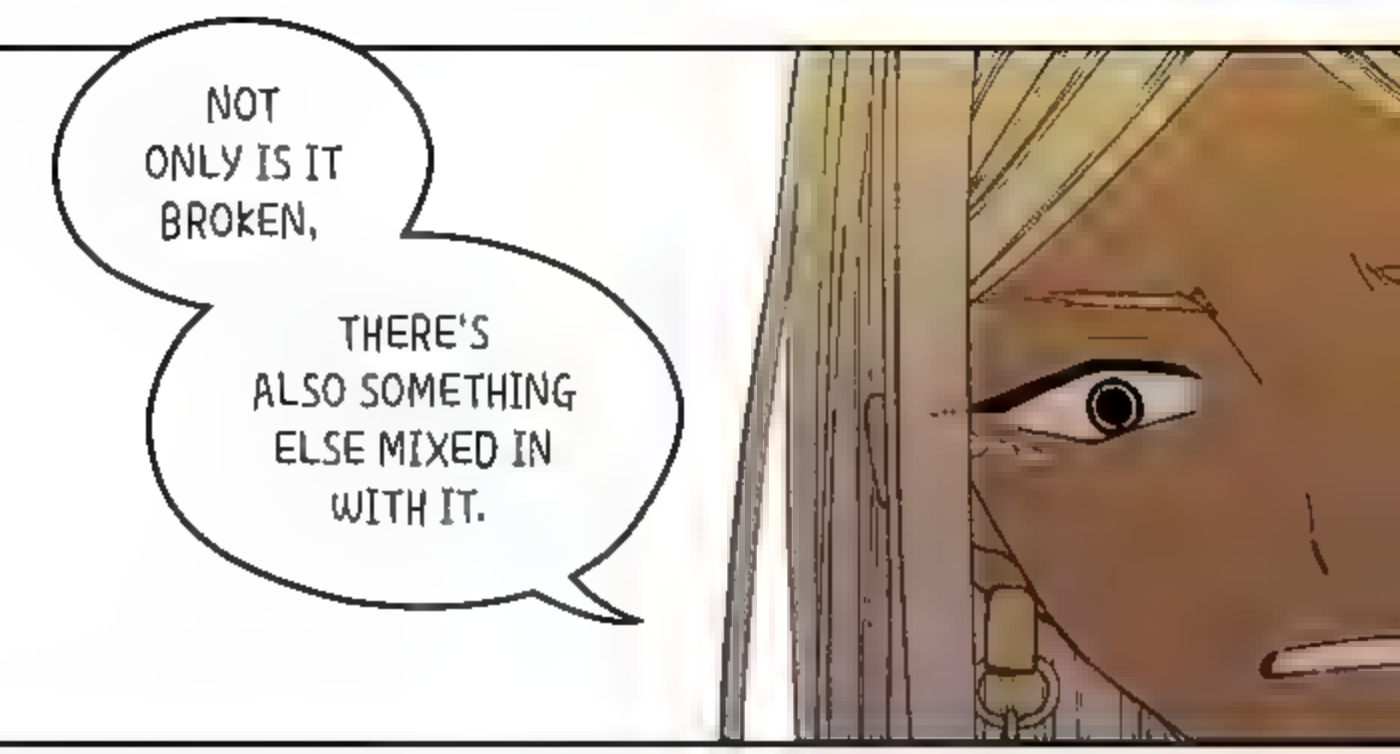
YOU PROMISED ME THAT YOU WOULD CLEANSE MUNROK'S ORB AND RETURN IT TO THE NAKDONG RIVER

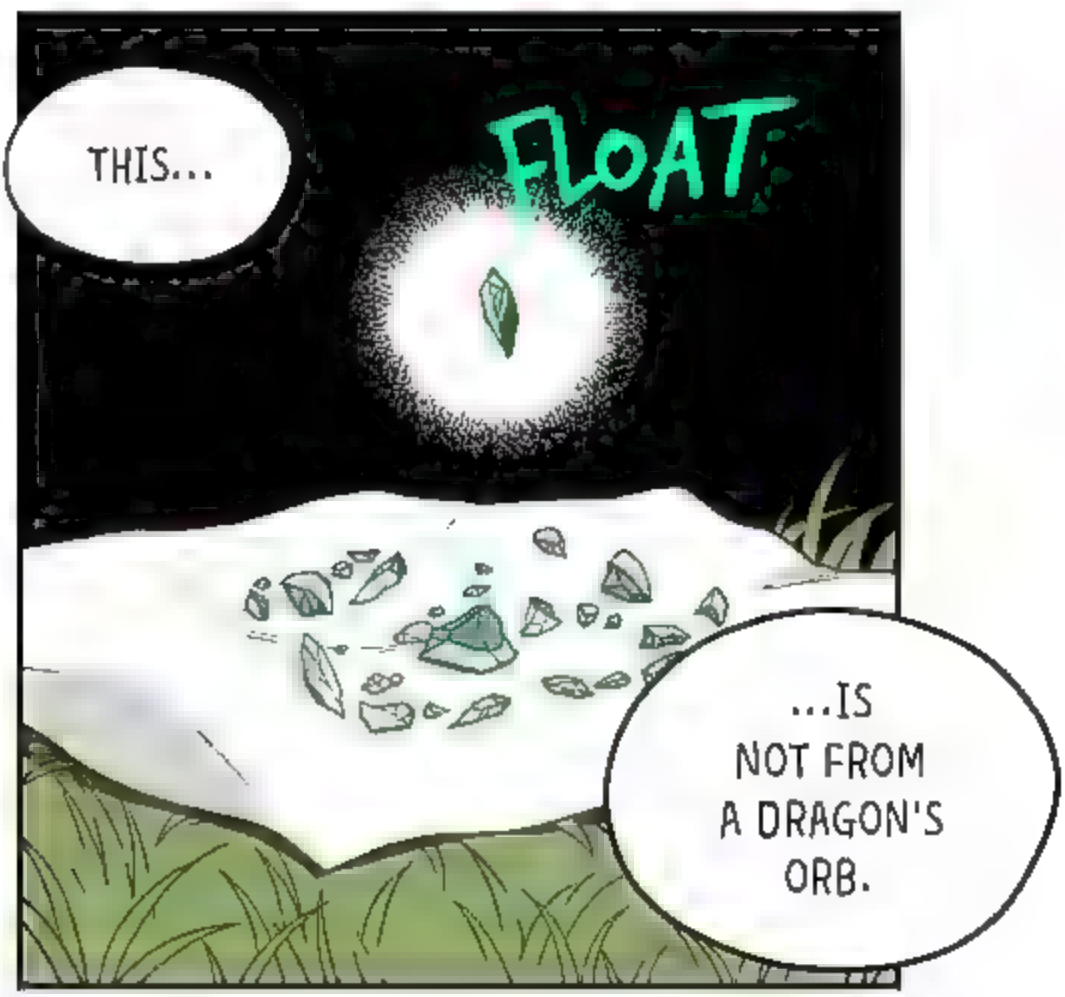
RIVER...
BROKEN
...AND YOU BRING THIS BACK TO ME?
WHAT GAVE YOU THE NERVE TO COME SEE ME,
ESPECIALLY AFTER SHATTERING THE ORB INTO PIECES?
AM I A JOKE TO YOU NOW THAT YOU'VE BECOME A DRAGON?



UM...
I UNDERSTAND WHY YOU'RE ANGRY,
BUT HEAR HIM OUT.
WHAT COULD WE DO WHEN THE SOUTHERN DRAGON KING WANTED TO BREAK IT...?

THE ORB IS CLEANSED, SO AT LEAST SOME THINGS WENT RIGHT--
SHUT YOUR MOUTH.
YES SIR.

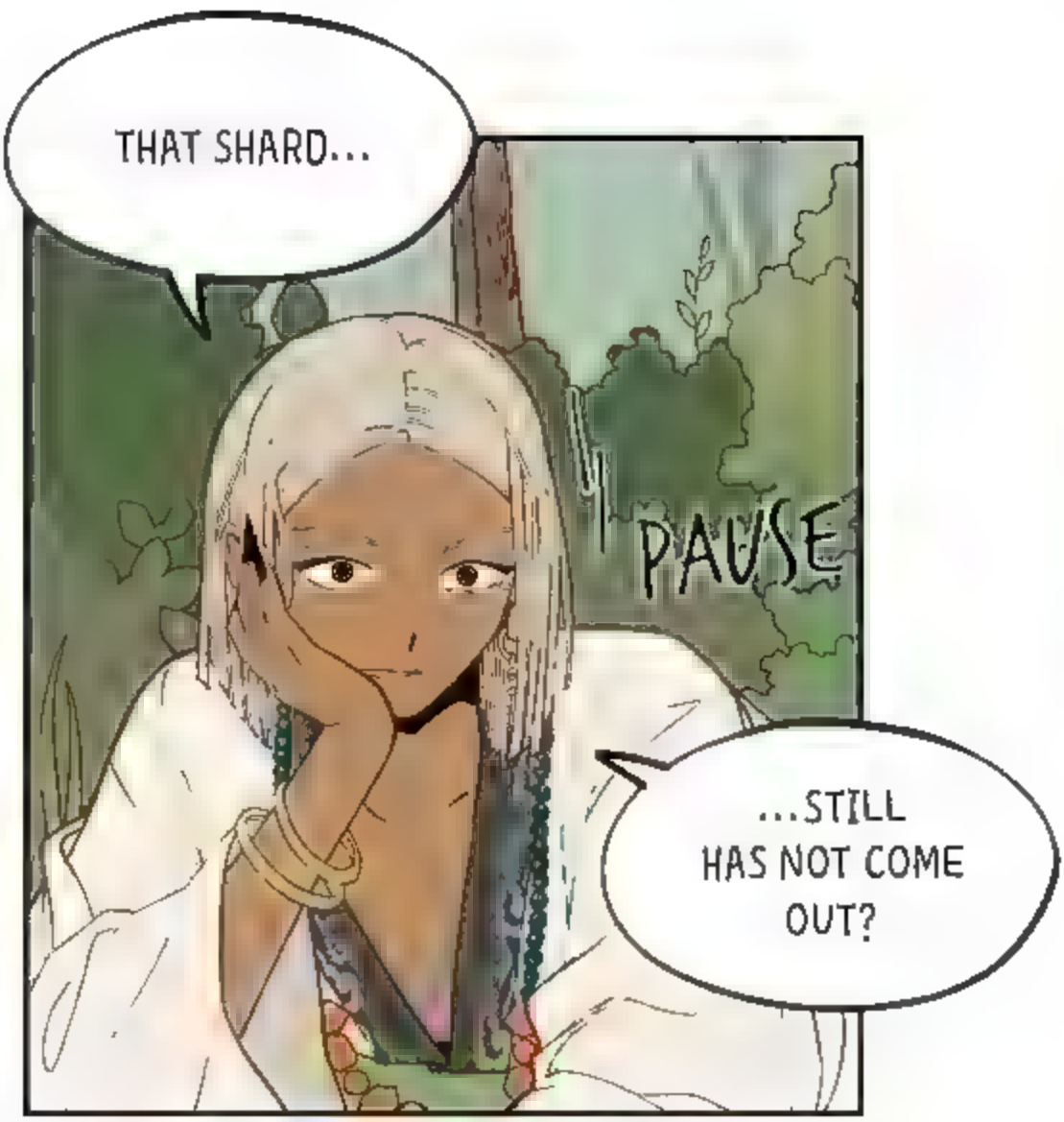

NOT ONLY IS IT BROKEN,
THERE'S ALSO SOMETHING ELSE MIXED IN WITH IT.


THIS...
FLOAT
...IS NOT FROM A DRAGON'S ORB.

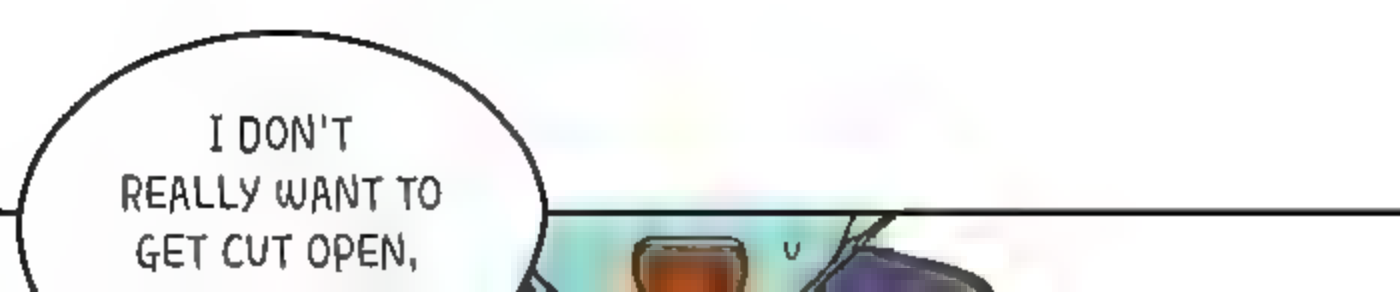
PROBLEM AFTER PROBLEM
OH, THAT'S...
MIRIS...

...
IT BELONGS TO ONE OF MY IMOOGI PEERS.

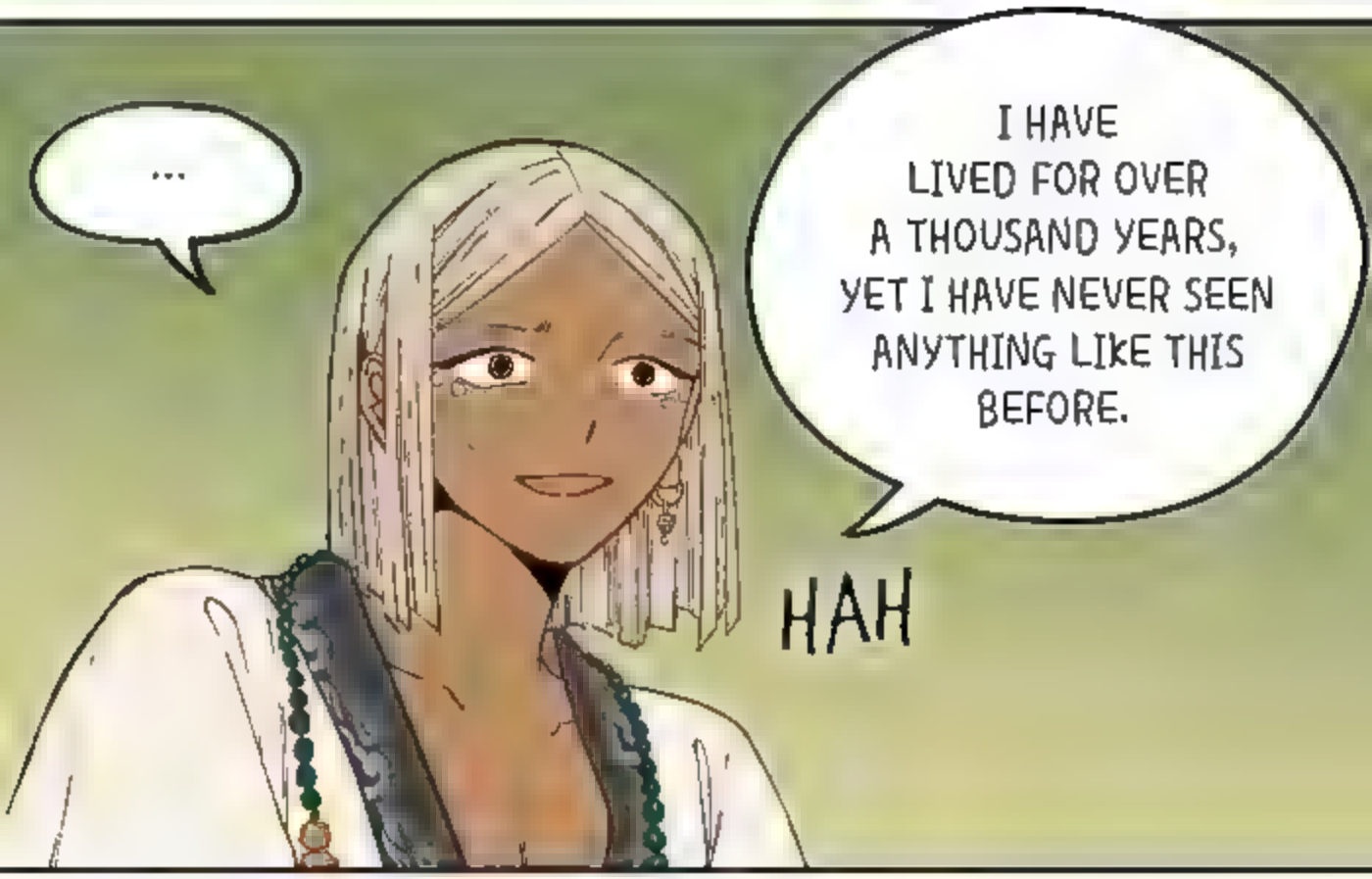
WE COULD NOT REMOVE THE PIECE THAT YOUNG SWALLOWED...

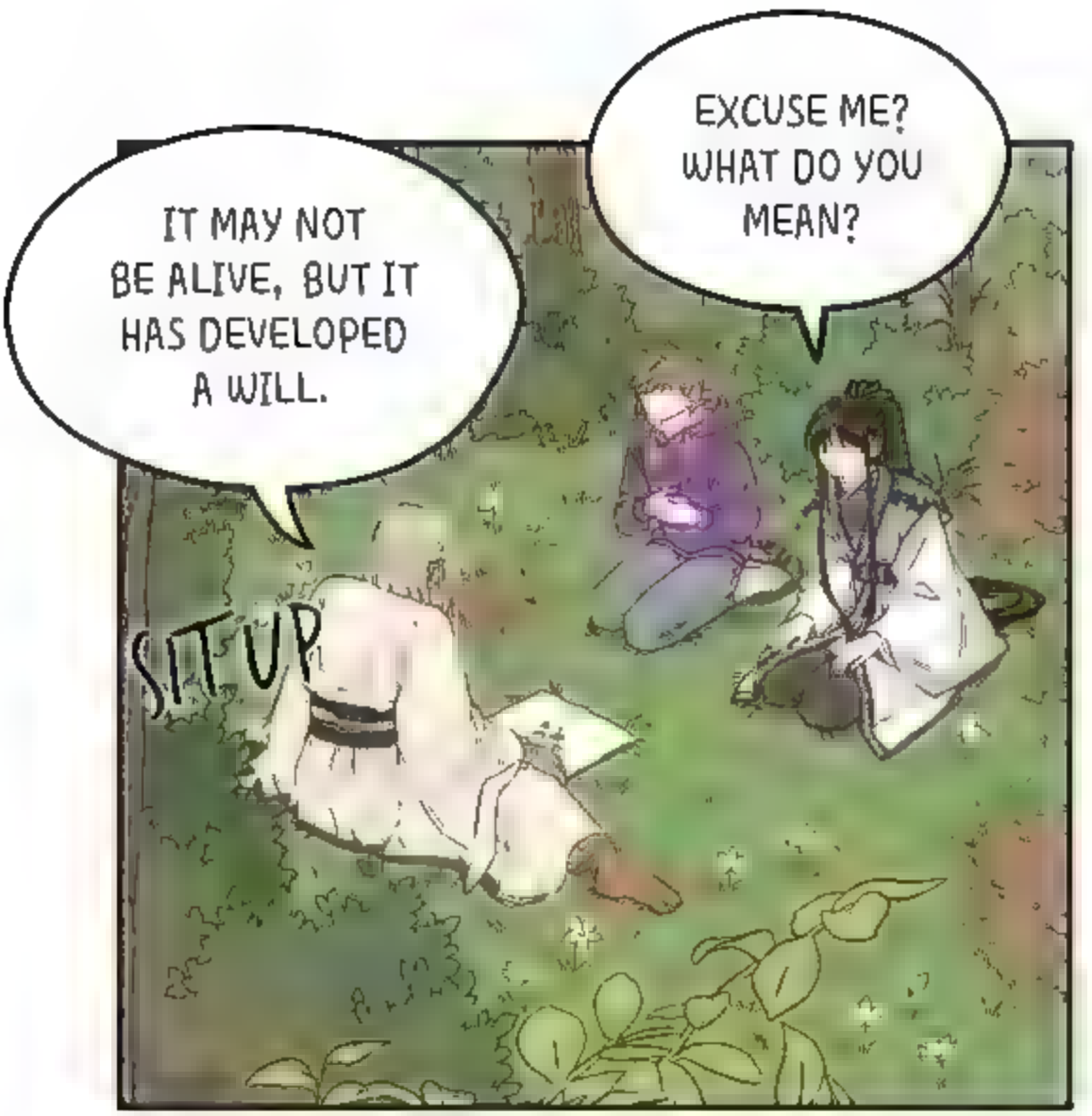

THAT SHARD...
PAUSE
...STILL HAS NOT COME OUT?

YES... I'VE TRIED THROWING IT UP AND EVERYTHING...
CAN YOU REMOVE IT?
SO IT DOESN'T HURT, I MEAN!

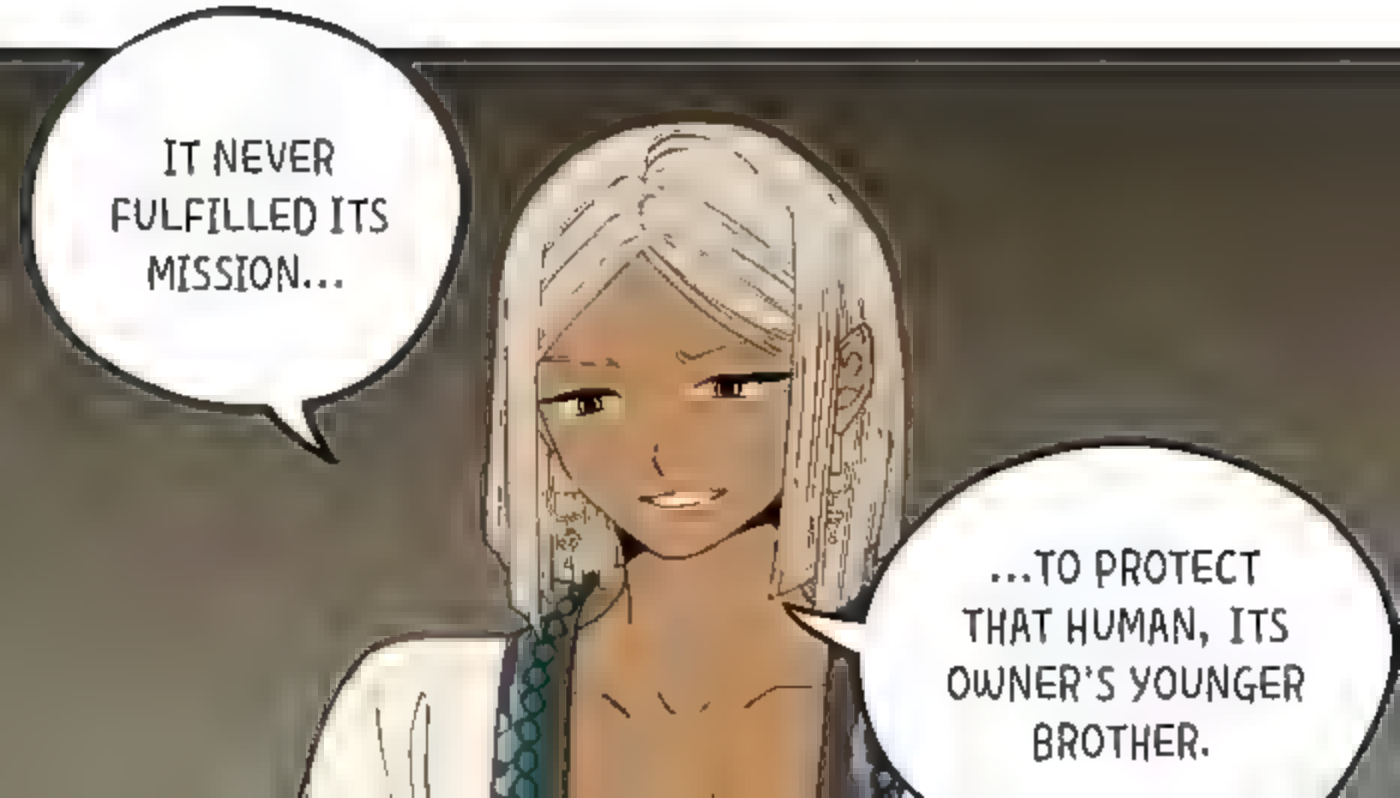

I DON'T REALLY WANT TO GET CUT OPEN,

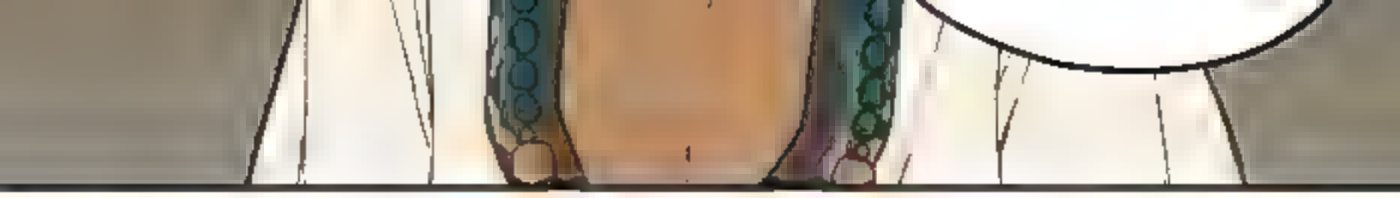
SO...
SPARKLE
...IF THERE'S A WAY TO REMOVE IT WITHOUT HURTING ME, THEN...


...
I HAVE LIVED FOR OVER A THOUSAND YEARS, YET I HAVE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.
HAH


EXCUSE ME? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
IT MAY NOT BE ALIVE, BUT IT HAS DEVELOPED A WILL.
SIT UP

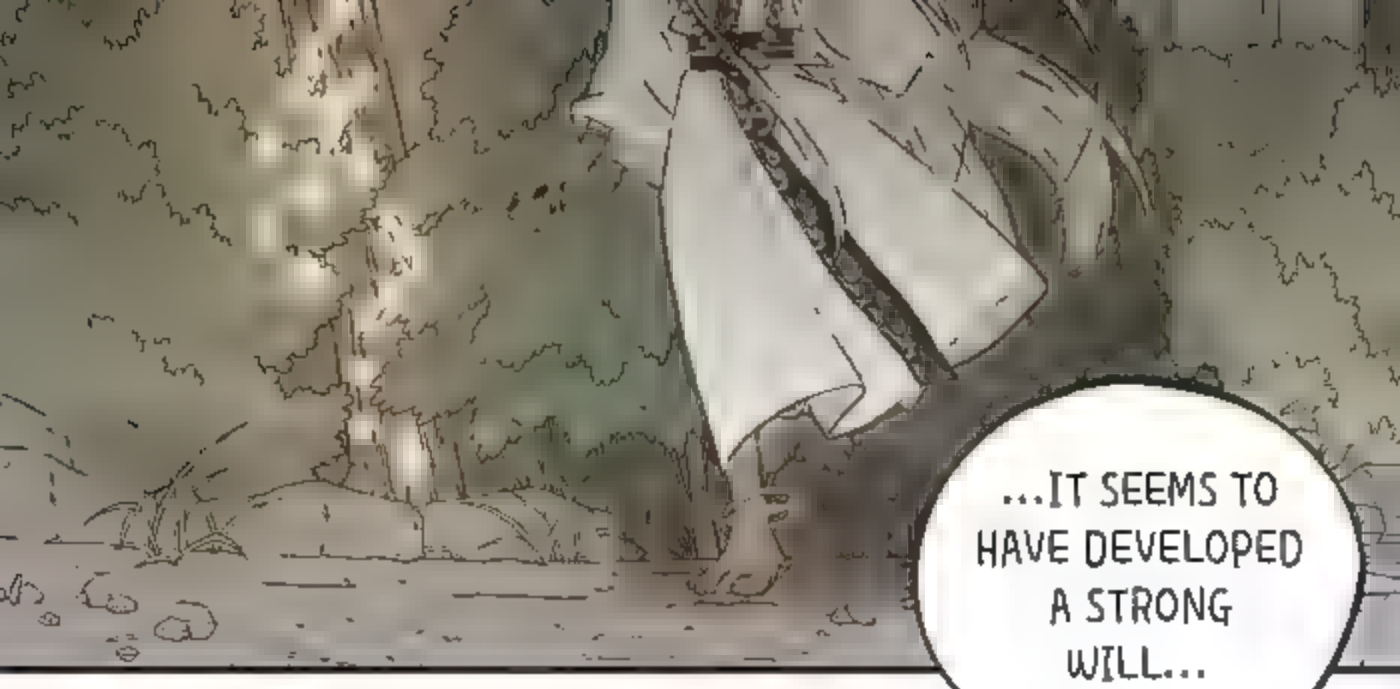
A WILL...?
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THIS PIECE OF THE ORB?


IT NEVER FULFILLED ITS MISSION...
...TO PROTECT THAT HUMAN, ITS OWNER'S YOUNGER BROTHER.

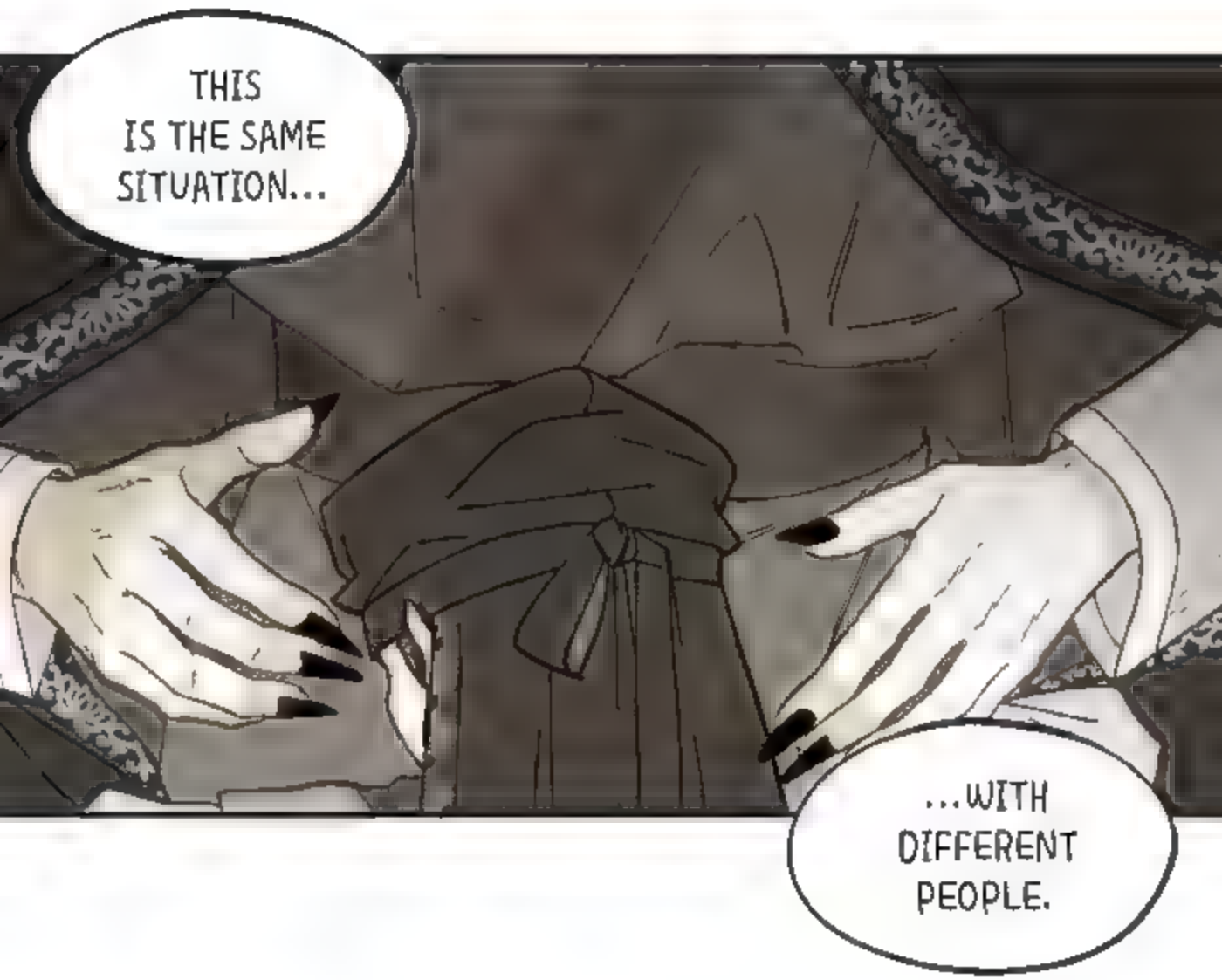


BECAUSE OF THAT, IT LOST ITS OWNER...
...ITS RIVER...

...AND THE HUMAN...
...THAT IT WAS MEANT TO PROTECT.
HAVING GONE THROUGH ALL OF THAT...

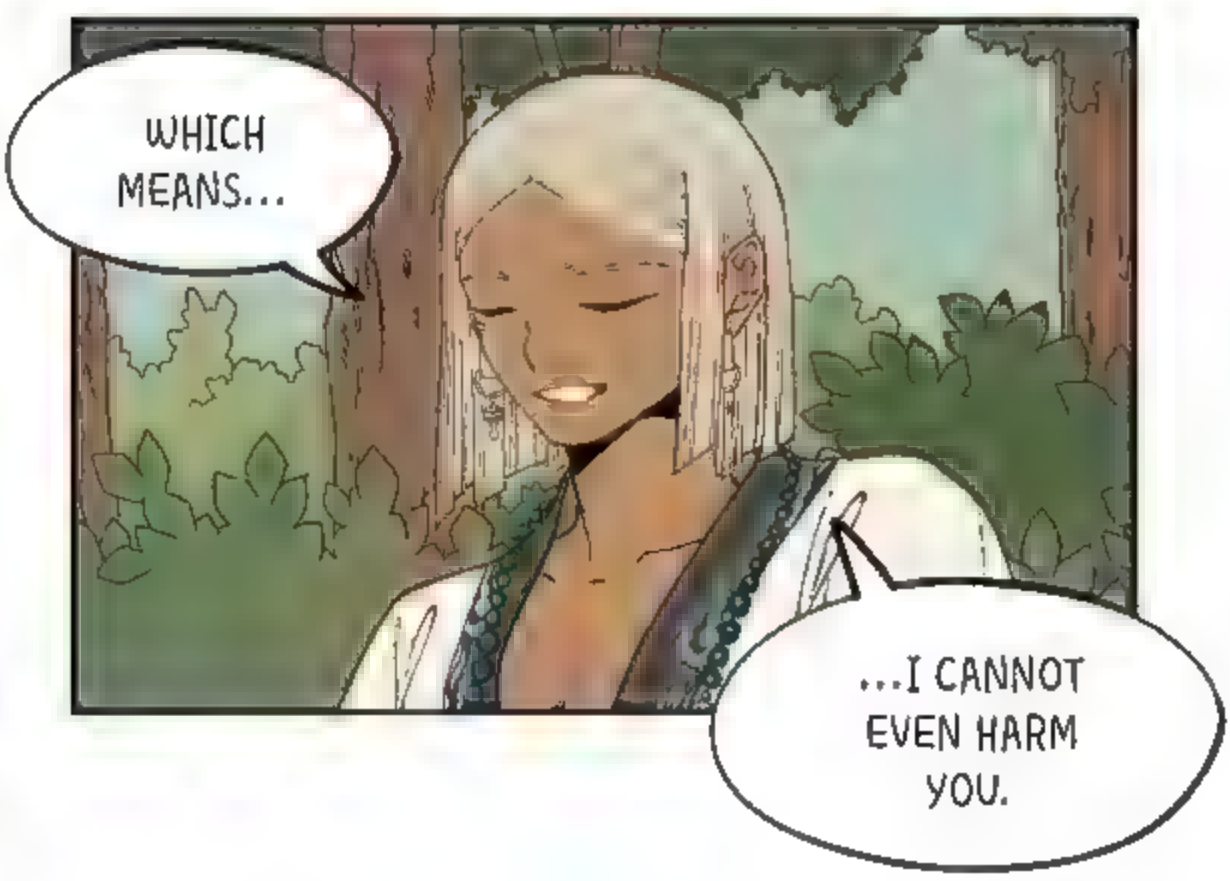

...IT SEEMS TO HAVE DEVELOPED A STRONG WILL...

THIS TIME...
...IT MUST HAVE DECIDED TO STAY IN ONE PLACE.

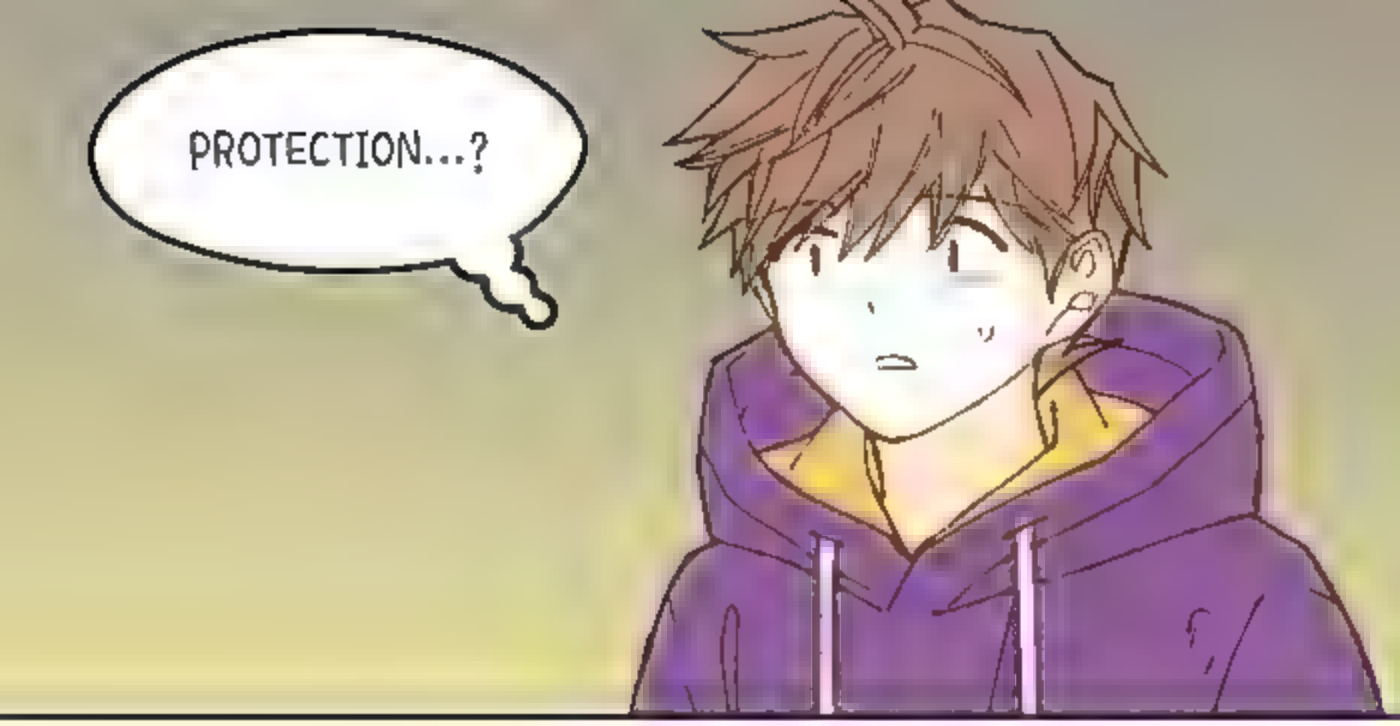

THIS IS THE SAME SITUATION...
...WITH DIFFERENT PEOPLE.

IT IS PROTECTING...

...THE HUMAN THAT THE NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON CARES FOR.

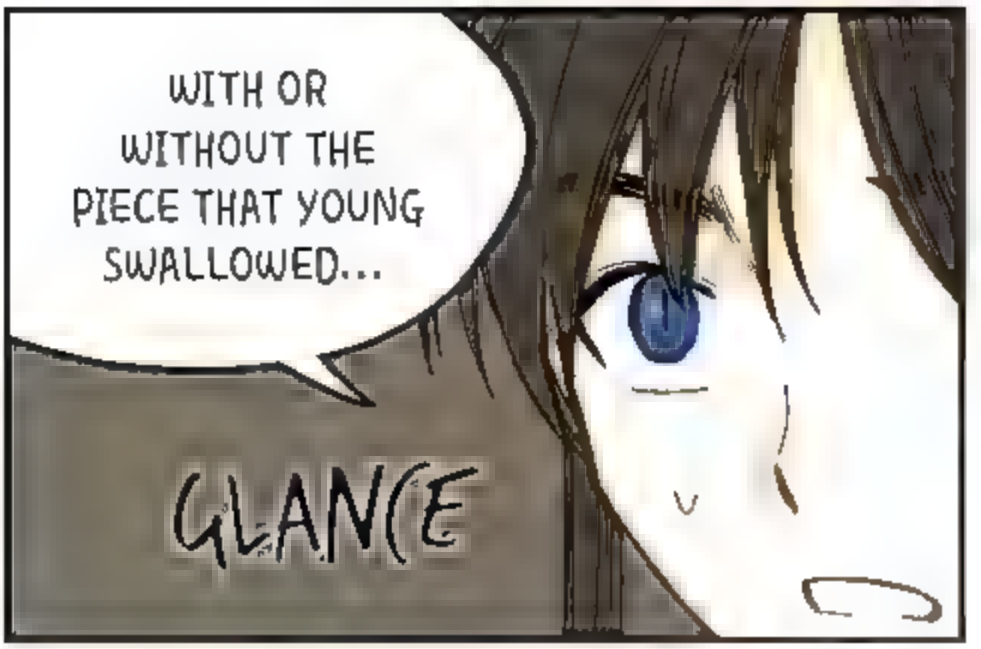

WHICH MEANS...
...I CANNOT EVEN HARM YOU.

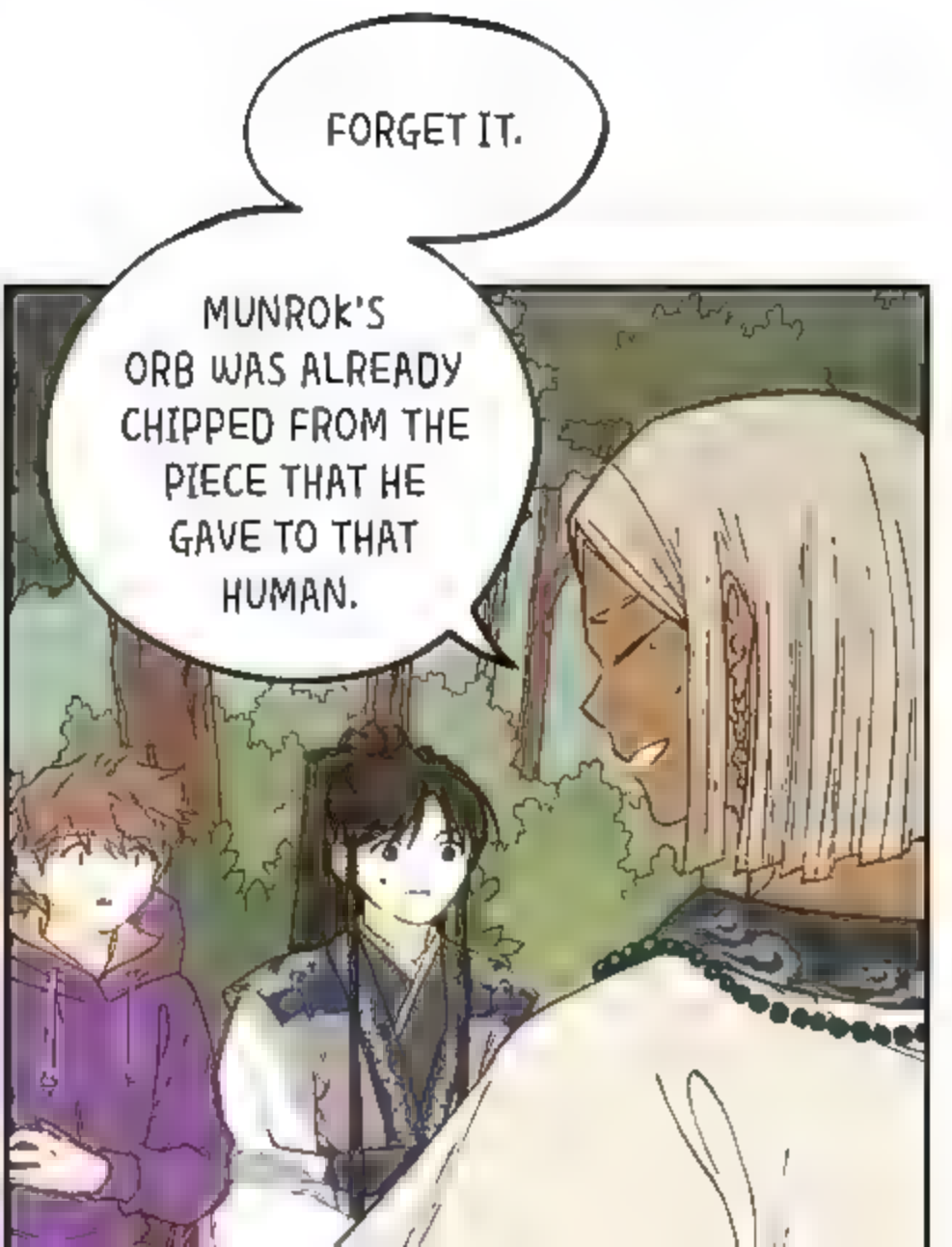
HOW FUNNY.
A HUMAN THAT OWED A KARMIC DEBT TO AN IMOOGI IS NOW UNDER THE PROTECTION OF A DRAGON.

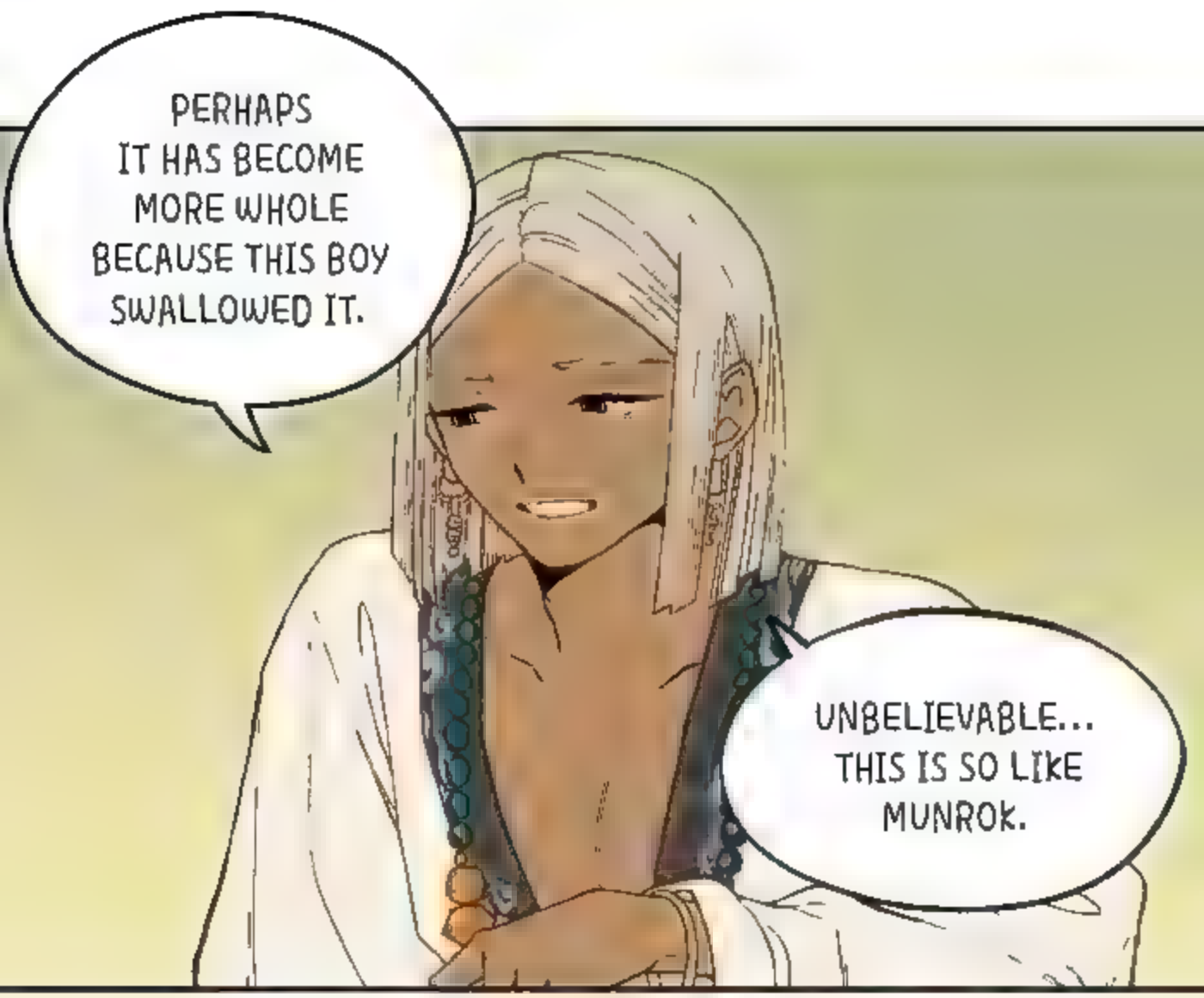

PROTECTION...?

WE CANNOT KEEP THE FORMER NAKDONG RIVER DRAGON'S ORB LIKE THIS FOREVER.
I WILL RETURN THE WHOLE ORB TO THE NAKDONG RIVER, AS I PROMISED YOU.

IF WE PRAY TO THE FIRST WATER OF THE HWANGJI POND EVERY DAY...
...WE WILL BE ABLE TO REPAIR THE ORB.


WITH OR WITHOUT THE PIECE THAT YOUNG SWALLOWED...
GLANCE


FORGET IT.
MUNROK'S ORB WAS ALREADY CHIPPED FROM THE PIECE THAT HE GAVE TO THAT HUMAN.


PERHAPS IT HAS BECOME MORE WHOLE BECAUSE THIS BOY SWALLOWED IT.
UNBELIEVABLE... THIS IS SO LIKE MUNROK.

HOWEVER,

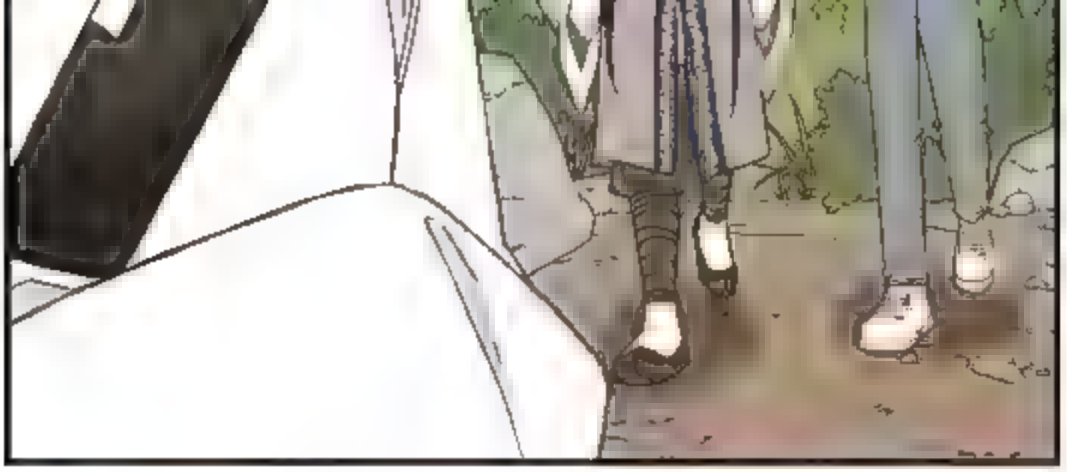
YOU MUST PUT TOGETHER THE REST OF THE ORB, AS YOU PROMISED.
OF COURSE.

WELL, SINCE YOU ARE HERE, YOU OUGHT TO TAKE MY UNWELCOME GUEST WITH YOU.
UNWELCOME GUEST?

...
THIS MUST MEAN...
...HE IS FULLY RECOVERED.

LORD
YISHIMI.

BARI...



PERHAPS I SHOULD SPEAK TO YOU FORMALLY, NOW THAT YOU ARE A DRAGON.
CONGRATULATIONS, MY LORD.

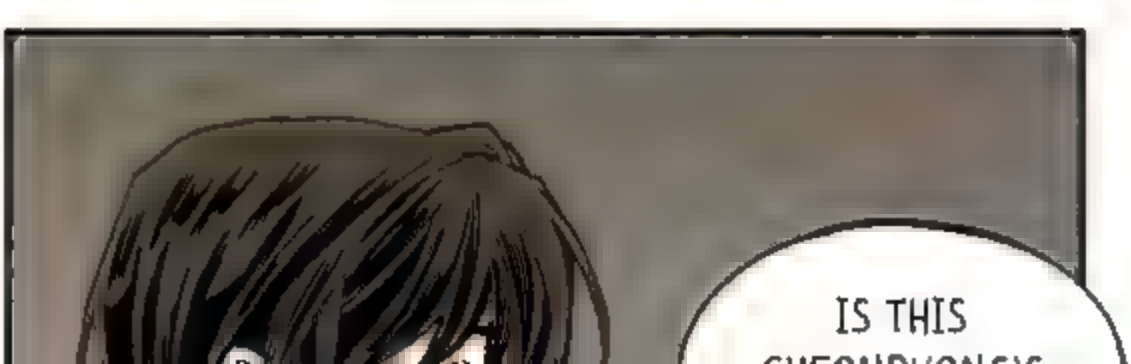
PLEASE SPEAK TO ME THE WAY YOU USUALLY DO.
I AM STILL NOT USED TO THIS...

VERY WELL.

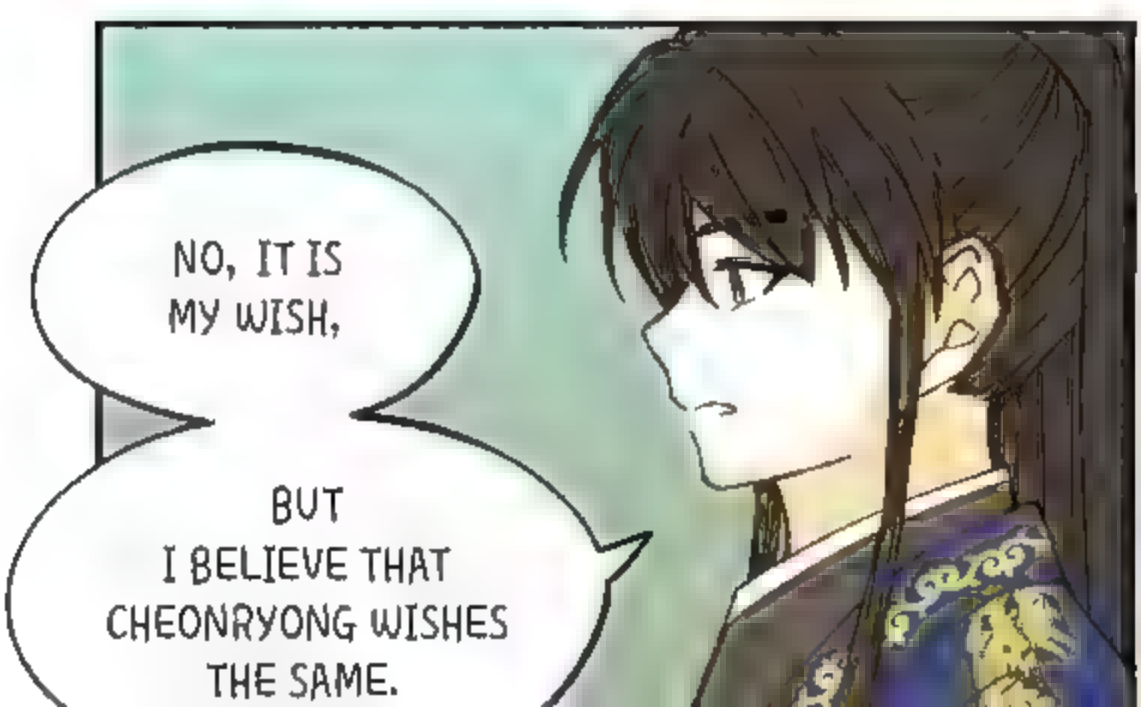
WHY
HAVE YOU COME
TO ME?

IT IS TIME TO
RETURN TO MOUNT
WOLAK.
HOWEVER,
BEFORE THAT...

PLEASE COME WITH ME...
...TO CHEONRYONG'S PALACE.

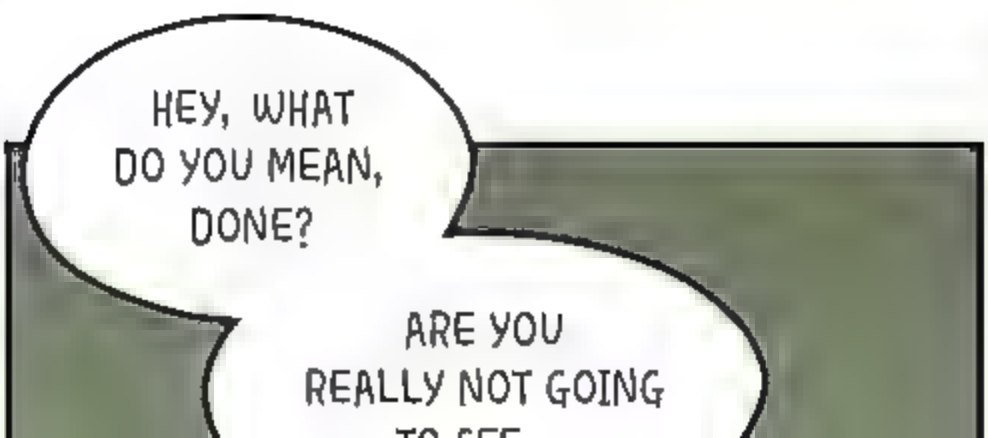

IS THIS

CHEONRYONG'S
DECREE?


NO, IT IS
MY WISH,
BUT
I BELIEVE THAT
CHEONRYONG WISHES
THE SAME.

I WILL PREPARE TO GO IN DUE TIME--
NO, NOW.
YOU ARE FULLY RECOVERED, SO WE WILL DEPART NOW.

I TOLD CHEONRYONG THAT WE WOULD GO TO HER AS SOON AS MY WORK ON THE SURFACE WAS DONE.
...!


HEY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN, DONE?
ARE YOU REALLY NOT GOING

TO SEE...
...YEONGNO...?

BARI!

BARI...
WE NEED TO TALK.

...

Story/Art eon

Assistance stinis

HD

Gwang-gyu